

SENATOR BYARS: I guess everybody in the body understands that Senator Coordsen and Senator Byars really are good old boys, and we do our best to try to get along with the rest of the body, and so maybe you consider us somewhat more pliable than others. But as we have watched our legislative districts, 30 and 32, and the congressional plans unfold, I think maybe we have come to the point where we ought to be a little less pliable. I kind of feel that we've become counties of convenience, counties that can be chopped up into halves, thirds, quarters, whatever might accommodate everyone else in this body. Now I know there is a squeeze from the east, a squeeze from the west, but you know it doesn't have to meet in Gage and Jefferson and Thayer Counties. There are other alternatives, and I know what Senator Robinson is trying to do. I understand what his amendment seeks to accomplish, but it bothers me that every plan that is being proposed centers right in the middle of districts 30 and 32, and I am going to be opposing Senator Robinson's plan. I think trying to work together to achieve a balance in redistricting is very, very important, but look at your maps, ladies and gentlemen. Look at all of the proposals that have come in, and they chop us up horribly. I would please ask you, in your sense of fairness, that Senator Coordsen and Senator Byars aren't just good old boys. We represent people that want to be kept together. They want to be heard. They want to also have their territorial boundaries be maintained and I would ask you please oppose the Robinson amendment and other proposals that come forth that really aren't very sensitive to the needs of the people of our districts. Please oppose the Robinson amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Beyer.

SENATOR BEYER: Madam Chairman and colleagues, I also rise to oppose the amendment. I can understand some of Senator Robinson's concerns about being the rural area, but then my part of Sarpy County district is rural. The western part of Douglas County is rural, but I think that Douglas and Sarpy County have always had more things in common, and if we include that small portion of Plattsmouth down there in Cass County, it would tie in more with the people living there, that they are in Offutt, work at Offutt, connected with Offutt as far as they are servicemen and everything. But it does stand to reason to have those two counties because of all of the area that all of the businesses and everything work together in those counties and are more apt to have the various parts of legislation federally